



**Senior Advisor to Board;  
Dave Leighton, Colonel USMCR(Ret)**

Following graduation from the University of Nebraska in 1957 and the Basic School in 1958, Dave attended flight school, requesting helicopters upon graduation was assigned to MCAF Santa Ana, CA.

Deploying to WESTPAC in 1961, he was a pilot with the first combat unit deployed to the Republic of Vietnam. He returned to RVN in 1966 for a second tour. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross with silver star, 13 Air Medals and the RVN Cross of Gallantry.

Accepting a Reserve commission in 1968, Dave was hired by United Airlines where he served for 23 years, flying B737, B727 and B747 aircraft and instructing in the latter. He served as the ALO for the 15th Staff in Chicago; as Commanding officer of a CH-46/UH-1N squadron in New Orleans; on the 4th MAW staff as G-1, G-4 and Deputy Chief of Staff.

In 1985 he was assigned to the Pentagon on the SECDEF staff as Head, Joint Reserve Staff in the office of the ASD(RA). He attended the Naval War College in 1974 and again in 1984. He joined MCROA in 1974 and served in the capacity of vice president and then in 1985-86 as President. He has subsequently served, and is serving, on the board of directors of MCROA and MCRA. Dave can be reached at [greyfox6usmc@gmail.com](mailto:greyfox6usmc@gmail.com)